



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

50X1-HUM

suffered by the Czechoslovak representatives at the Cominform meeting in Warsaw criticizing the unreliability, inadequate training, and insufficient armament and equipment of the Czechoslovak Army.

4. It is justifiable to say that the greater part of the present Officers' Corps and of the men (up to 70%) is anti-Communist. The Army in this sense reflects public opinion. In all the strata of the Czechoslovak population there is a marked rise in feeling against the regime.
5. The original strength of the Czechoslovak peacetime Army which was agreed upon after the liberation proved to be too large and expensive not only in relation to the total number of population of the country but also because of the fact that it was impossible to procure the necessary armament and equipment for so large a peacetime army, let alone an army in mobilization strength. The lack of armaments and equipment was such that as early as 1946 the number of higher units (i.e. divisions and brigades) was proportionately decreased. That was insufficient, however, and therefore the Czechoslovak Military Administration decided further to decrease the total number of peacetime Army personnel as well as the number of higher units. In the fall of 1947, the Czechoslovak Military Administration, after further study of all possibilities, came to the conclusion that the strength of the Czechoslovak peacetime Army cannot exceed 150,000 including officers, warrant officers, long term NCOs, and civil' employees (totalling about 10,000). The length of the compulsory military training being two years, the annual contingent of (new) recruits has been fixed at 52,000 and the number of men in the so-called Supplementary Reserve at 5,000 (Supplementary Reserve consists of men entitled, on the basis of the Compulsory Military Service Act, to certain alleviations, especially with respect to the length of service); this means that there are in Czechoslovakia at any one time 105,000 recruits in training.
6. The fixing of the annual contingent at the above number has influenced the military potentialities of Czechoslovakia and necessitated further reorganization of the peacetime Army. The plans for the reorganization of the Army of peacetime strength into a cadre for the wartime Army have been worked out by the Ministry of National Defense. These plans were discussed at a meeting of the Highest State Defense Council presided over by the President of the Republic. The Highest State Defense Council approved the plans of the Ministry of National Defense to present the matter before the Cabinet. The Cabinet took cognizance of the Council's proposals and approved the proposed strength of the peacetime Army.
7. The Czechoslovak Army at present is organized in the following geographic and functional subdivisions:
  - a. 4 Military Districts (oblasti):
    1. Praha
    2. Tabor
    3. Brno
    4. Bratislava
  - b. 5 Corps (sborny):
    1. Litomerice
    2. Hradec Kralove
    3. Pilsen
    4. Brno
    5. Trencin
  - c. 14 Higher Units (numbered regardless of whether they are motorized, normal or independent):
    - 1st Division (normal), Ceska Budejovice
    - 2nd Brigade (independent), Banska Bystrica)
    - 3rd Division (motorized), Kromeriz

SECRET/CONTROL- U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-3-

4th Division (motorized), Zilina  
 5th Division (motorized), Praha  
 6th Division (normal), Brno  
 7th Division (independent), Novy Jicin  
 8th Division (motorized), Kolin  
 9th Division (normal), Mitra  
 10th Division (normal), Kosice  
 11th Division (normal), Pilsen  
 12th Division (normal), Litomerice  
 13th Division (normal), Mlada Boleslav  
 14th Brigade (independent), Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary)

- d. 1 Tank Corps (2 Tank Brigades)
- e. Independent Artillery Units: 1 Artillery Division and several heavy and mixed Artillery Brigades.
- f. Air Force: Organized in Corps.
- g. 1 Cavalry Brigade located at Pardubice.
- h. Engineers: 4 Engineer Regiments and 1 Railroad Brigade.
- i. 5 Communication (Signal) Regiments.
- j. Military Schools:
  - 1) War College, coupled with the School of Army Administration (plus courses for high Army Officers), Prague.
  - 2) Military Academy, Hranice
  - 3) Air Force Academy, Hradec Kralove
  - 4) Air Force School, Prostějov
  - 5) Infantry School, Milovice
  - 6) Artillery School, Olomouc
  - 7) Engineer School, Litomerice
  - 8) Railroad Transportation School, Pardubice
  - 9) Communications (Signal) School, Nova Mesto Nad Vahom
  - 10) Cavalry School, Pardubice

In addition to these schools, there are various courses for Reserve Officers.

- k. Services: Medical, Administrative, Quartermaster, Motor Transportation, Ordnance, etc.
8. This reorganization went into effect in 1947. The results, however, did not meet expectations. The Army was burdened by various tasks which bear no direct relationship to its main function; Army members were assigned to work in the mines, in the fields, etc.; a large number of personnel has been placed on detached service to the various Headquarters, public offices, and institutions. The result was a substantial decrease in strength of the units concerned, so that it became impossible to carry on with the normal training of the troops. For that reason the Czechoslovak Military Administration having transferred the larger part of the Czechoslovak Army to the west of Bohemia (in order to secure the border of the Republic, at least partly against the West), decided to reduce to cadre strength some of the higher units located in the central and eastern part of the country and to transfer others. The officers and men thus made available were used to reinforce the units in Western Bohemia. In line with this decision, the following changes were effected:
- a. The 7th Brigade in Novy Jicin was reduced to cadre strength and the supernumeraries used to reinforce the 14th Brigade located in Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary).

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

50X1-HUM

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-4-

- b. The 13th Division in Mlada Boleslav, with the exception of the 4th Regiment, was reduced to cadre strength and the supernumeraries used to reinforce the 11th Division located in Pilsen, the 14th Brigade in Karlstad (Karlov Vary), and the 1st Division in Ceske Budejovice.
- c. Partly reduced were some of the units of the 9th Division located at Nitra and of the 10th Division at Kosice. The supernumeraries in this case were transferred to the 2nd Brigade in Banska Bustrice.
9. In view of the size of the area at the Czechoslovak-Bavarian border covered by the 1st and 11th Divisions, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from Banska Bystrica (Headquarters now located at Pisek) and assigned to the area between Vimperk and Klatovy. One Regiment of the 13th Division (4th Infantry Regiment, Hradec Kralove) was transferred to the Pilsen area as a reserve. Furthermore, by reduction to cadre strength of the Anti-Tank Artillery, the number of personnel of the Anti-Tank Regiment in Slany was raised to wartime strength. In Pacov, Southern Bohemia, the Anti-Tank outfit was reorganized and changed into an independent Anti-Tank Regiment in wartime strength. The Engineer and Communication (Signal) Units of the 5th and the 12th Divisions as well as those of the 2nd and 14th Brigades were reinforced; these, however, were left at their stations. The 3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th Motorized Divisions were left in their garrisons but preparations have been made for their instantaneous integration in case of need. Furthermore, the motorized Divisions were issued orders to keep in readiness one unit equivalent to a Motorized Infantry Company with heavy machine-guns and one unit (troop) of armored cars. Finally, the Motor Transport Corps were issued orders to keep in readiness in two (Motor Transport) Regiments one convoy consisting of 20 trucks.
10. All these measures started to be put into effect after the conclusion of training of higher units in training camps (in June 1948) and they have to be completed as soon as possible.
11. Changes in the existing mobilization orders will take place only after the present mobilization period which expires at the end of February 1949. Orders and directives for the coming mobilization period are now being prepared by the General Staff and will be distributed to the individual units in the fall; on the basis of these orders and directives, new mobilization plans, coming into effect in March 1949, will be worked out.
12. According to the present mobilization plans and depending upon the quality and quantity of armaments and equipment, the present (peacetime) units, called A Units, are to be mobilized first; in the second place, reserve units, called B Units, will be formed (of those peacetime units with inferior armaments and equipment); or, eventually, a B unit may be formed from parts of two or three A units.
13. As far as armaments and equipment of the Czechoslovak Army are concerned, they are of limited quantity and diverse origin. The larger part of the materiel is of German origin. Next in quantity is the (pre-war) Czechoslovak materiel, then the Russian, British, and, to a limited extent, American materiel with which the Czechoslovak units abroad were equipped during the war. The USSR agreed to equip 10 divisions but delivered equipment and armaments for only 6 divisions. The stores of ammunition are greatly limited. Tank units are equipped with heterogeneous material (Soviet, Czechoslovak). New types of tanks are not available and, so far, are not being produced.
14. The standard of the Czechoslovak Air Force is low not only in regard to personnel whose quality has deteriorated as a result of the purge but also with respect to its materiel, which is of diverse origin. The greater part of the aircraft is of German origin (Messerschmidts, Junkers 52, and Siebels), then

50X1-HUM

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

50X1-HUM

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-5-

50X1-HUM

[redacted] light bombers, and transport planes.

[redacted] the Soviet fighters,

15. The morale of the Czechoslovak Army is at a low ebb. The reason is the discontent and disgust of the rank and file with the two-year service, a part of which must be spent in the so-called work brigades (in the mines, in agriculture, etc.). A soldier in a work brigade must maintain military discipline, and at the same time work as any other worker but without the benefits of civilian workers. A further element contributing to the low morale of the Army is the dislike of the regime and its ideology. The Enlightenment Service in the Army, although it is devoted to the present regime, has not been able to attain such results in the "education" of Army personnel as would be desirable from the standpoint of those in power.
16. The institution of Political Commissars has not been introduced in the Czechoslovak Army so far, but the Enlightenment Officers serve the same purpose to a great extent, as they claim the right to interfere in such matters as classification of Army personnel, promotions and transfers, assignment to functions, etc. The influence of Enlightenment Officers is evident everywhere.
17. The low morale prevailing in the Officers' Corps only contributes to the further decline of the morale of the Army as a whole. Since the purge has hit a large percentage of the most highly qualified officers a conviction is spreading rapidly that it is not honorable for an honest, patriotic, and democratic Czechoslovak Officer to serve in the present Army.
18. The anticipated further purge of the Officers' Corps will probably leave an Army faithful to the regime but of a very low value from the standpoint of military efficiency.

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY